IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Engelhardt et al.

Applicants. Engellarat et al.

Continuation of

Serial No. 10/206,031

Filed: June 6, 2003

Title: NOVEL PROCESS, CONSTRUCT AND CONJUGATE

FOR PRODUCING MULTIPLE NUCLEIC ACID)

COPIES

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Previous Group Art Unit: 1634

Prev. Ex'r: Arun K. Chakrabarti, Ph.D.

527 Madison Avenue (9thFloor) New York, NY 10022-4304 November 19, 2003

FILED BY EXPRESS MAIL

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT (ACCOMPANYING CONTINUATION APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b))

Dear Sirs:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Engelhardt et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

(Continuation of S.N. 10/206,031, filed June 6, 2003)

Filed: Herewith

Page 2 [Preliminary Amendment (Accompanying Continuation Application

Under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)) --- November 19, 2003]

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November 19, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper and the attachments herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington DC 20231.

Ronald C. Fedus

Reg. No. 32,567

Engelhardt et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

(Continuation of S.N. 10/206,031, filed June 6, 2003)

Filed: Herewith

Page 3 [Preliminary Amendment (Accompanying Continuation Application

Under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)) --- November 19, 2003]

PLEASE AMEND THIS APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

In The Title:

Change the title of the invention to:

-- In vitro Processes for Producing Multiple Copies of Primer Sequence-Free Specific Nucleic Acid -- .

In The Claims:

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add new claims 91-103.

Claim 1 (Canceled Hereinabove)

Claims 2-90 (Canceled in Continuation Request)

91. (NEW) An *in vitro* process for producing more than one copy of a specific nucleic acid, 'said products being substantially free of any primer sequences, said process comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a nucleic acid sample containing or suspected of containing the sequence of said specific nucleic acid;
- (b) contacting said sample with a mixture comprising:
 - (i) unmodified nucleic acid precursors,